

Bonjour UP: French firms show biz interest in state

Rafale Firm Looking For Indian Partner

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: Dassault, the maker of the Rafale fighter jet, is interested in making Rafale offsets in Uttar Pradesh, but is looking for an Indian partner.

Another French company Air Liquide also expressed interest in expanding its business in UP. At present, Air Liquide is setting up a plant in Mathura, which is planned to be commissioned in December 2023. It is considering setting up a second plant, possibly in Purvanchal.

“The commitments made in the defence agreement between India and France regarding making offsets in

India have not been fulfilled yet. This is a great opportunity for UP if the state government can convince Dassault to make offsets here,” a senior official said. He said that the government will try and find partners for the company and make land available for the unit near the defence corridor. Before going ahead with the project, however, the state government would require taking permission from the Centre.

Talks between the government and the companies which have shown interest in investing in the state are expected to be finalised during the GIS-2023 in February. During the roadshows in the Netherlands and France held between December 16 and 19, investment proposals worth Rs 11,000 crore were signed while letters of intent for invest-

ments of Rs 10,000 were also received.

In the interaction with representatives of Philips, which is developing pharmaceuticals that are cost-effective and portable, the company spoke about a low helium MRI machine it has developed and said that it is willing to set up its manufacturing

plant in UP. It has also developed a portable ultrasound device which the government is also keen to bring into UP.

“Safran Group, a French company that manufactures aerospace equipment, has shown interest in shifting its manufacturing plant from China to UP. Their plan is to set up a plant in Uttar Pradesh and supply it to the whole world. The company had previously also shown interest in investing in UP but that did not materialise then. Now the government

will make every possible effort to bring the company to the state,” the official said.

Meanwhile, Silas Technology, a medium size French company, also signed an MoU with the government for setting up a manufacturing unit of anti-drone systems in UP. “The product will be significant for India whose neighbouring nations use drones to conduct spying. This technology is used in a relatively small number of nations right now, but its market can grow very fast,” the official added.

Meanwhile, Nobel Hygiene Pvt Ltd, a 100% Indian company which is a leader in adult diapers and a strong player in the baby diapers market, has communicated to the government a proposal of investing Rs 200 crore in a manufacturing unit in UP. Their brands include Friends, BFIT and Teddy and Snuggly.

